

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02577 291107Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PA-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 SP-02 USIE-00 INR-10 INRE-00 CIAE-00 /047 W
-----020633 291109Z /13

O R 291041Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5191
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS ATHENS 2577

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)
SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY'S TRIP TO TURKEY

REF: STATE 79871

1. ALL MARCH 29 MORNING ATHENS NEWSPAPERS CARRIED THE NEWS OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S TRIP TO ANKARA AND REPORTED IT IN THE CONTEXT THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WAS CARRYING A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT CONCERNING THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. MOST ACCOUNTS WERE BASED ON REPORTS DATED IN WASHINGTON AND WERE PLAYED IN A SECONDARY FASHION AS STRAIGHT NEWS ITEMS WHICH ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE CONGRESS WAS ABOUT TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY.

2. ONLY PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS MADE IT A FEATURE STORY UNDER THE HEADLINE "CONCERNING THE NEW US-TURKISH AGREEMENT - CARTER'S PEOPLE CARRY AN URGENT MESSAGE TO ECEVIT". THIS REPORT CITED A DEPARTMENT SOURCE AS STATING THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD NOT
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DISTURB THE (MILITARY) BALANCE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY SHOULD THE US-TURKISH TREATY BE APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS SINCE GREECE, TOO, WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SIMILAR TREATY.
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

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